

and the like on a computer monitor at intervals when the computer is otherwise processing, that overcomes at least some of the abovementioned problems or at least to provide the public with a useful choice. It is a further non-limiting object of the invention to provide a computer program for generating and displaying information on a computer monitor at intervals when
5 the computer is otherwise processing, that overcomes at least some of the abovementioned problems or at least to provide the public with a useful choice.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 According to a non-limiting aspect of the invention there is provided a method of and a computer program for loading preselected information data for display on a computer monitor by running by running a stand alone computer application program independently of other programs on a computer, the application program being configured to detect the occurrence of a wait event caused by at least one other program being run on the computer, the wait event
15 resulting in a user having to wait for the computer to complete processing tasks commanded from one or more other programs being run on the computer, the process comprising:

- a.) detecting a wait event occurring in other programs being run on the computer by sensing a wait condition and loading a preselected information datafile, the
20 detection of the wait event occurring independently of the other programs being run by the computer and not requiring any modification of the other programs;
- b.) displaying information from the selected information datafile on the computer monitor during the occurrence of the wait event; and
- c.) suspending display of information when the wait event has ended.

25 Preferably the computer program further includes the preliminary step i. of selecting user preferences, including any one or more of the following preferences, being the type of information for display as a window; the duration of the window of information for display; the number of windows; the size of the window; the contrast background of the window; the
30 transparency level of the background of the window; and the colour of the window.

Desirably in step c. the program is suspended, and further comprising step d. of resuming display of the information datafile when a further wait event is detected.

Claims:

1. A method of loading preselected information data for display on a computer monitor by running a stand alone computer application program independently of other programs on a computer, the application program being configured to detect the occurrence of a wait event caused by at least one other program being run on the computer, the wait event resulting in a user having to wait for the computer to complete processing tasks commanded from one or more other programs being run on the computer, the method comprising:
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- A. detecting a wait event occurring in other programs being run on the computer by sensing a wait condition and loading a preselected information datafile, the detection of the wait event occurring independently of the other programs being run by the computer and not requiring any modification of the other programs;
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- B. displaying information from the selected information datafile on the computer monitor during the occurrence of the wait event; and
- C. suspending display of information when the wait event has ended.
2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the selection of any one or more of the following user preferences comprising: the type of information for display as a window and prioritising the display of different types of information; the duration or frequency of display of information; the number of said windows; the position and size of the windows; the contrast background of the windows; the transparency level of the background of the windows; and the colour of the windows.
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3. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the selection of a corner anchor point that determines the position of the window for display on the desktop of the computer monitor screen, the selection of a position on the monitor results in the corner of the window closest to the position selected becoming the corner anchor point from which windows appear in a cluster.
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4. A method according to claim 1 further comprising step D. of resuming display of the information datafile when a further wait event is detected.

5. A method according to claim 4 further comprising step E. of loading a second or subsequent information datafile for display after the first information datafile has been displayed or when the user chooses to load the second or the subsequent information datafile.
- 5 6. A method according to claim 2 further comprising a means for adjusting the display time in accordance with a user's reading speed and the length or amount of information to be displayed.
- 10 7. A method according to claim 1 comprising a means for selecting an information datafile for use as a teaching tool, the teaching tool means allowing a user to select preferences such as the subject matter; a set of questions and degree of difficulty with the subject matter; and the sequence of display of each said question and associated answer.
- 15 8. A method according to claim 1 comprising a means for obtaining information data in a form capable of being displayed on a monitor from a really simply syndication (RSS) feed obtained from a computer host server via a communications network and caching the information or data on a computer hard drive for presentation in a display window at a subsequent wait event.
- 20 9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the time interval between receipt of updated information from a RSS feed is automatically adjusted based on recent changes to content in the information being received by the RSS feed.
- 25 10. A method according to claim 8 wherein in step B. queries for details of updated information relating to the RSS feeds are regularly sent to internet based computer web servers, and such queries are monitored and the query rate is adjusted based on the threshold of intrusion on the network bandwidth applying to the computer.
- 30 11. A method according to claim 8 further comprises a means to search for information on particular goods and/or services specified by a user through the RSS feeds, and the search means being adapted to communicate with an internet based search engine.

12. A computer program for loading preselected information data for display on a computer monitor by running a stand alone computer application program independently of other programs on a computer, the application program being
5 configured to detect the occurrence of a wait event caused by at least one other program being run on the computer, the wait event resulting in a user having to wait for the computer to complete processing tasks commanded from one or more other programs being run on the computer, the process comprising:
- 10 a. detecting a wait event occurring in other programs being run on the computer by sensing a wait condition and loading a preselected information datafile, the detection of the wait event occurring independently of the other programs being run by the computer and not requiring any modification of the other programs;
- 15 b. displaying information from the selected information datafile on the computer monitor during the occurrence of the wait event; and
- c. suspending display of information when the wait event has ended.
13. A computer program according to claim 12 further comprising the preliminary step i.
20 of allowing a user to select preferences from any one or more of the following user preferences comprising the type of information for display as a window; the duration of the window of information for display; the number of windows; the size of the window; the contrast background of the window; the transparency level of the background of the window; and the colour of the window.
- 25 14. A computer program according to claim 12 further comprising step d. of resuming display of the information datafile when a subsequent wait event is detected by way recommencing at the point where it was suspended at the end of the wait event, and continuing with step b. until step c. reoccurs.
- 30 15. A computer program according to claim 14 further including step e. of loading a second or subsequent information datafile for display after the first information

datafile has been displayed or when the user chooses to end the first information datafile and load the second or subsequent information datafile.

16. A computer program according to claim 13 wherein the preliminary step i. includes
5 preselecting any one or more information datafiles from a library of datafiles, the datafiles comprising information and/or text and/or graphics and/or audio material in a format suitable for display on a computer monitor.
17. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein in step b. the time period for
10 display of information in a window before the next frame is shown is automatically adjusted given a user's reading speed and the amount of information being presented during a wait event.
18. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein the information provided for
15 display in step b. is obtained from a RSS feed and cached on a computer hard drive for presentation in a display window at a subsequent wait event, and wherein the time interval between receipt of updated information from a RSS feed by a computer is automatically adjusted based on recent changes to content in the information being received by the RSS feed.
- 20 19. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein in step b. queries for details of updated information relating to the RSS feeds are regularly sent to internet based computer web servers, and such queries are monitored and the queries rate is adjusted based on the threshold of intrusion on the network bandwidth applying to the
25 computer.
20. A computer program according to claim 12 further comprising a means to search for
information on particular goods and/or services specified by a user through the RSS feeds, and wherein the search means is adapted to communicate with an internet based
30 search engine.
21. A computer program according to claim 13 wherein in step i. a user can select an origin point for anchoring a corner of the display window, the origin point of the

display window being the corner of the display window that is nearest to a corner of the desktop of the computer monitor.

22. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein in step b. the information datafile
5 includes information prepared as a sequence of questions and associated answers on a particular subject, and wherein a set of questions and answers on a subject form an information datafile.
23. A computer program according to claim 13 wherein the number of questions and/or
10 the degree of difficulty of the questions and/or the sequence of display of each said question and associated answer from each said information datafile is selectable by a user.
24. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein each selected information datafile
15 is displayed sequentially or randomly.
25. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein the window display is adapted as
a personal notepad on a computer monitor to allow a user to upload data or
information onto the personal notepad to generate a personal note, and the personal
20 note is stored for later display at a predetermined future date and time as a reminder, or displayed during a wait event.
26. A computer program according to claim 25 wherein each said personal note generated
is assigned a file category, and each said personal note and each said file category is
25 retrievable and updateable.
27. A computer program according to claim 25 wherein each said file category is assigned
a different colour to distinguish one category of said personal note from another
category.
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28. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein in step i. the program is adapted
to allow a user to encrypt and lock access to selected information datafiles and RSS
feeds only to authorised users of such information datafiles.

29. A method according to claim 1 wherein the preselected information data is obtained and stored ready for display when required, and wherein a user manually runs the program to display the preselected information at any desirable time.
- 5 30. A method according to claim 1 wherein the stand alone computer application program is not embedded in the other programs for which wait events are being detected.
- 10 31. A method according to claim 1 wherein in step A., the wait condition is detected by sensing any one or more of the following activities, the activities being a trigger sent from another program to the operating system of the computer or a change in a cursor status or by a change in the activity state of an application-specific icon.
- 15 32. A method according to claim 1 wherein in step A, the wait condition is detected by sensing any one or more of at least two activities.
33. A method according to claim 1 wherein in step A, the wait condition is detected by sensing any one or more of three activities.
- 20 34. A computer program according to claim 12 wherein the stand alone computer application program is not embedded in the other programs for which wait events are being detected.

ABSTRACT

This invention relates to a computer program for displaying information in the form of a
5 display window during a downtime when a computer user is waiting for a computer to
complete processing tasks, and referred to herein as a wait event, the program including the
steps of detecting a wait event and activating an information datafile or information or
activating the program manually by the user; displaying information on a computer monitor in
the form of data and/or graphics and/or video and/or audio material; and suspending the
10 program when the wait event has ended or when suspended manually by the user, such
suspension resulting in the disappearance of the display window.

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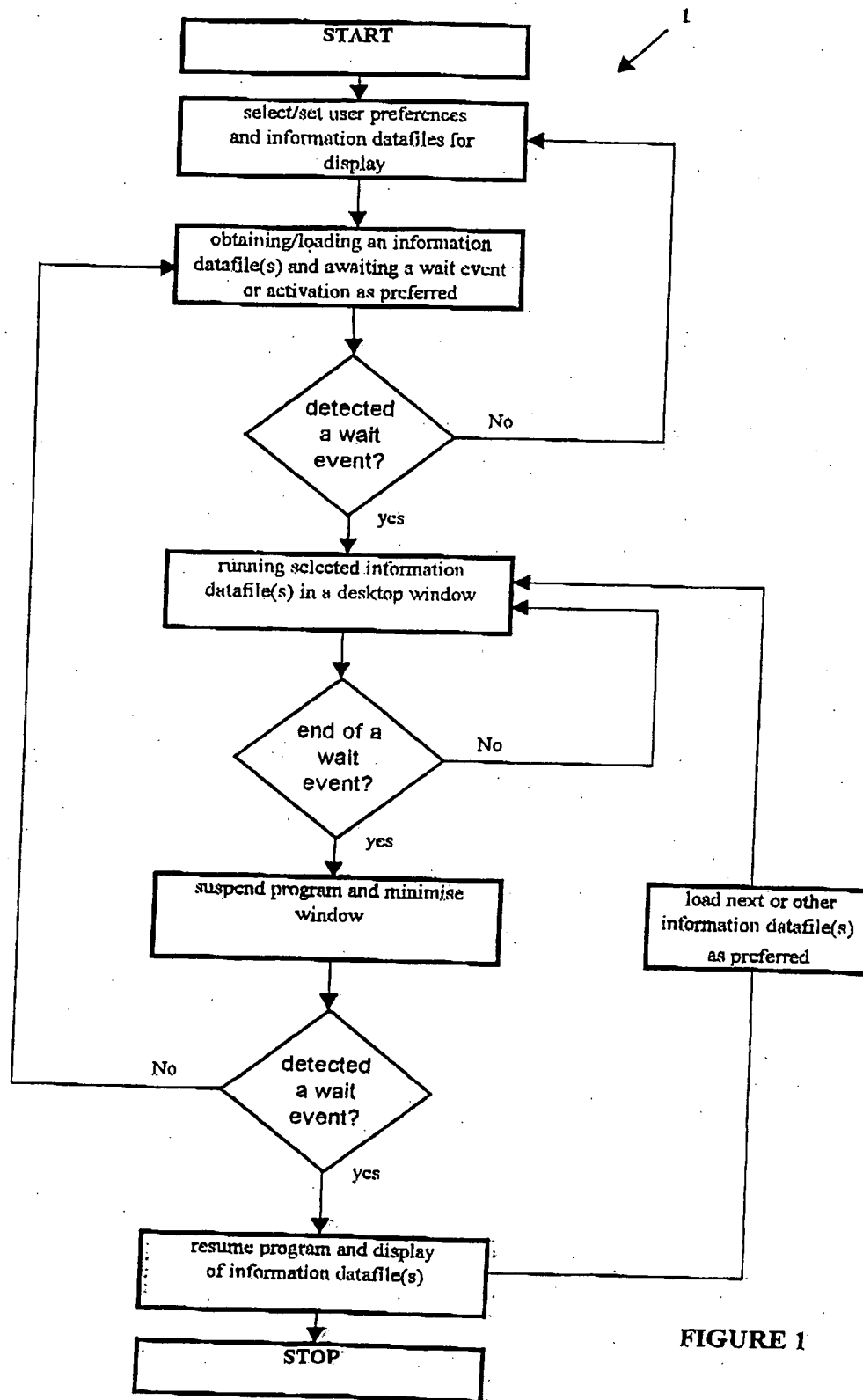


FIGURE 1